



JUN 3 2004

The Honorable Haley Barbour  
Governor of Mississippi  
P.O. Box 139  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Barbour:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the State of Mississippi's request for an extension of a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) waiver of the 20 percent funds transfer limitation at WIA Section 133(b)(4), under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIA Title I, subtitles B and E and Sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

The State of Mississippi's request (copy enclosed) indicates that a waiver extension will provide local workforce investment boards with continued flexibility to respond to changes in their local labor markets and meet the needs of the state's diverse population. The waiver is written in the format identified in WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and 20 CFR 661.420(c) and appears to meet the standard for approval at 20 CFR 661.420(e).

Accordingly, the State of Mississippi is granted an extension of the waiver through June 30, 2005. The waiver allows the state to approve local area requests to transfer up to 50 percent of local area allocations between the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

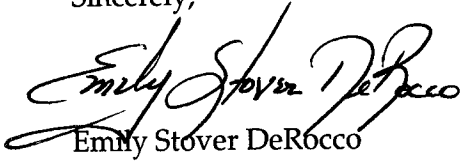
The granted waiver is incorporated by reference into the state's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided for under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and also constitutes a modification of the state's approved five-year strategic plan. A copy of each letter should be filed with the state's WIA Grant Agreement and the state's approved five-year strategic plan, as appropriate.

As you know, your waiver extension for funds transferability is consistent with one of the improvements that the Administration is seeking in the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act-the consolidation of the WIA Adult, WIA Dislocated Worker and Wagner-Peyser Act (Employment Service) funding streams.

This consolidation would provide states with maximum flexibility to meet unique workforce needs. In the meantime, we hope this waiver extension will assist your state in meeting its workforce needs and improving programmatic outcomes.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and achieving better workforce investment outcomes. We are prepared to entertain other state and local-level waiver requests that you may wish to submit, consistent with the provisions of the WIA statute and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Stover DeRocco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emily" being the most prominent.

Emily Stover DeRocco

Enclosure